

a user, causes a suggested bid value that surpasses at least one bid received from at least one other client processor to be conveyed to an output device coupled to the at least one client processor.

59. The system according to claim 58, wherein the user selectable facility further comprises a user selectable element conveyed by the output device for submitting the suggested bid value from the at least one client processor to the bid server operating in the online auction.

Remarks

Status of the Application

The Subject Application was filed November 10, 2000. No office action has been received for the Subject Application as of the date of filing of the present preliminary amendment.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant requests that the Specification of the Subject Application be amended as indicated hereinabove. The SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION and the DETAILED DESCRIPTION have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claim Amendments

Original claims 22-27 have been withdrawn in anticipation of prosecution of aspects of the disclosed invention recited therein in a separate application. Claims 2-13 and 15-19 are amended hereinabove to clarify the subject matter claimed therein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that those amendments be entered.

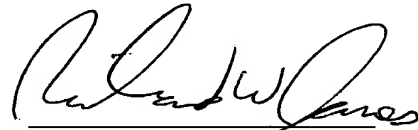
New Claims

Applicant requests that new claims 28-59, support for which may be found throughout the specification, be added to the Subject Application.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced in the amendments proposed hereinabove and respectfully requests that the Examiner enter those amendments prior to the examination of the Subject Application. Furthermore, examination and passage to allowance of the Subject Application at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. James", written over a horizontal line.

Richard W. James
Registration No. 43,690

Dated: September 28, 2001

Customer No. 009629
Patent Support Unit
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1701 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2921
(412)560-7062

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the SUMMARY OF INVENTION in the Specification as indicated hereinbelow:

Page 8 at line 4, please delete “is disclosed” after the word “bidders”.

Please amend the DETAILED DESCRIPTION in the Specification as indicated hereinbelow:

Page 50 at line 28, please delete “of” after the word “calculating”.

IN THE CLAIMS:

New Claims 28-59 have been added.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of conducting an auction having at least two [competing] bidders, comprising:

receiving bid data from [at least one] a first bidder; and
providing the bid data to a competing bidder that meets a condition for receiving the bid data.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition for receiving the bid data.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder has placed at least one bid.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder is [the] a lead bidder.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined number of other bidders.
6. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder is ranked above a predetermined percentage of other bidders.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder has entered a bid within a predetermined time period.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes:

establishing a best bid placed by [any] the first bidder;

calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by [any one of] the [at least two] first bidder[s]; and

determining whether said calculated difference [for the bidder] is less than a predetermined amount.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes:

establishing a best bid placed by all bidders;

calculating a difference between a best bid placed by the competing bidder and the best bid placed by [any one of the at least two] all other bidders; and

determining whether said calculated difference [for the bidder] is less than a predetermined percentage.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said determining whether [a] the competing bidder meets [a] the condition includes determining whether the competing bidder has placed at least one bid that is better than a predetermined amount.

11. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which [at least one of] the [at least two] first bidder[s] is willing to sell a good.

12. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the bid data includes an amount of money for which [at least one of] the [at least two] first bidder[s] is willing to sell a service.

13. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the bid data includes [the] a total value for which [at least one of] the [at least two] first bidder[s] is willing to sell a good.

15. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the bid data includes a numeric value representative of [the] a total value for which [at least one of] the [at least two] first bidder[s] is willing to sell a service.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to all [of the at least two] bidders that have submitted at least one bid.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing bid data includes providing bid data related to less than all [of the at least two] bidders that have submitted at least one bid.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining [the] a rank of [a] the competing bidder based on [the] a best numeric value bid by the competing bidder; and
wherein said providing bid data further comprises providing bid data related to [the] a bidder having a rank that is one [next] better [ranked bidder] than [to] the rank of the competing bidder.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing said bid data to [a] the competing bidder only after the competing bidder has submitted a valid bid.